

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 111. (Canceled)

112. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a set top box, update code streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;

generating, by the set top box, a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke the update code that is streamed to the set top box by ~~[[a]]~~ the server on ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined channel;

receiving, by the set top box in response to the trigger, an m-bit update flag included in the update code, wherein the m-bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box;

accessing, by the set top box in response to the trigger, an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box;

comparing, within the set top box, the m-bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the ~~n-bit~~ n-bit unique hardware identifier, wherein n is greater than m;

determining, based on comparing the m-bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier; and

selectively invoking, by the set top box, the update code based on determining that the ~~m-bit~~ m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

113. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising:

determining, in response to determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked

based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

114. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising receiving a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

117. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising receiving a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

118. (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

119. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
determining, by a server, a first quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes;
determining a quantity, n , of bits in an n -bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box;
selecting, by the server, a value, m , based on the first quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n , wherein the value, m , is less than the quantity, n ;

generating, by the server, an m -bit update flag;
including, by the server, the m -bit update flag in update code; and
streaming, by the server, the update code, including the m -bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

120. (Previously presented) The method of claim 119, further comprising:
after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, determining a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

121. (Previously presented) The method of claim 120, further comprising:
determining, by the server, a second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;
selecting, by the server, a value, o , based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n , where the value, o , is less than the quantity, n ;
generating, by the server, an o -bit update flag;
including, by the server, the o -bit update flag in update code; and
streaming, by the server, the update code, including the o -bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

122. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
a set top box; and
a non-transitory computer-readable medium coupled to the set top box having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the set top box, cause the set top box to:
receive update code streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;
generate a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke the update code that is streamed to the set top box by [[a]] the server on [[a]] the predetermined channel;
receive, in response to the trigger, an m -bit update flag included in the update code, wherein the m -bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box;

access, in response to the trigger, an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box;

compare the m-bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the ~~n-bit n-bit~~ n-bit unique hardware identifier, wherein n is greater than m;

determine, based on comparing the m-bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier; and

selectively invoke the update code based on determining that the ~~m-bit m-bit~~ m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

123. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to:

determine, in response to determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

124. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to determine that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

125. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

126. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to receive a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

127. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to receive a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

128. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

129. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a server; and

a non-transitory computer-readable medium coupled to the server having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the server, causes the server to:

determine a first quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes;

determine a quantity, n, of bits in an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box;

select a value, m, based on the first quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, wherein the value, m, is less than the quantity, n;

[[generate-an]] generate an m-bit update flag;

include the m-bit update flag in update code; and

stream the update code, including the m-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

130. (Previously presented) The system of claim 129, wherein the instructions further cause the server to:

determine, after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

131. (Currently amended) The system of claim 130, wherein the instructions further cause the server to:

- determine a second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;
- select a value, o , based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n , where the value, o , is less than the quantity, n ;
- generate an o -bit update flag;
- include the o -bit update flag in update code; and
- stream the update code, including the o -bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

132. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by a set top box causes the set top box to:

- receive update code streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;
- generate a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke the update code that is continuously streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;
- receive, in response to the trigger, an m -bit update flag included in the update code, wherein the m -bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box;
- access, in response to the trigger, an n -bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box;
- compare the m -bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the ~~n -bit~~ n -bit unique hardware identifier, wherein n is greater than m ;
- determine, based on comparing the m -bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n -bit unique hardware identifier, that the m -bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n -bit unique hardware identifier; and

selectively invoke, by the set top box, the update code based on determining that the ~~m~~-bit m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

133. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to:

determine, in response to determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

134. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to determine that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

135. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

136. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to receive a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

137. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the instructions further cause the set top box to receive a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

138. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

139. (Previously presented) A non-transitory computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by a server causes the server to:

- determine a first quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes;
- determine a quantity, n , of bits in an n -bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box;
- select a value, m , based on the first quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n , wherein the value, m , is less than the quantity, n ;
- generate an m -bit update flag;
- include the m -bit update flag in update code; and
- stream the update code, including the m -bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

140. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 139, wherein the instructions further cause the server to:

- determine, after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

141. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 140, wherein the instructions further cause the server to:

- determine a second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;
- select a value, o , based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n , where the value, o , is less than the quantity, n ;

generate an *o*-bit update flag;
include the *o*-bit update flag in update code; and
stream the update code, including the *o*-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

142. (Previously presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

143. (Previously presented) The method of claim 142, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

144. (Previously presented) The system of claim 129, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

145. (Previously presented) The system of claim 144, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

146. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 139, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

147. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 146, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

148. (Cancelled)

149. (Previously presented) The method of claim 121, wherein:
the type of feedback is negative,

the second quantity of set top boxes is less than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the negative feedback, and
the value, o, is less than the value, m.

150. (Previously presented) The method of claim 121, wherein:
the type of feedback is positive,
the second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the positive feedback, and
the value, o, is greater than the value, m.

151. (Cancelled)

152. (Previously presented) The system of claim 131, wherein:
the type of feedback is negative,
the second quantity of set top boxes is less than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the negative feedback, and
the value, o, is less than the value, m.

153. (Previously presented) The system of claim 131, wherein:
the type of feedback is positive,
the second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the positive feedback, and
the value, o, is greater than the value, m.

154. (Cancelled)

155. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 141, wherein:
the type of feedback is negative,

the second quantity of set top boxes is less than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the negative feedback, and

the value, o , is less than the value, m .

156. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer storage medium of claim 141, wherein:

the type of feedback is positive,

the second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the first quantity of set top boxes based on the positive feedback, and

the value, o , is greater than the value, m .